

2010

Maine Libraries Snapshot 2010

Maine State Library

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MAINE LIBRARIES SNAPSHOT

A Day in the Life...

On a typical day in November 2010,
20% of Maine libraries reported that they:

- » Welcomed 40,938 people
- » Loaned 33,043 books, movies & more
- » Helped 12,367 people use computers to access the internet
- » Assisted 94 job seekers
- » Offered 189 programs for all ages
- » Taught 776 people computer skills



The total value of the day's activities was \$674,040.

Source: Library Value Use Calculator: www.maine.gov/msl/services/calculator.htm

"I didn't realize the full scope of the importance of our library...

Frequent use of the library's computers for varied purposes: those seeking employment, computer classes for retraining, students working on projects, networking and tourists

Space for literacy volunteers to meet with students, a most important program for those who seek help with basic reading and writing skills

A summer reading program to help prevent the loss of reading skills during the vacation while providing interesting experiences for kids

Thus, the library serves patrons from tots to seniors."

Ruth, Retired - Somerset County

Maine Libraries Snapshot Day, Nov. 2010



The information contained in this booklet reflects the activity of 20% of all types of Maine libraries: Public, Academic, School, and Health Science libraries that provide library services across Maine.

Data was captured on Maine Libraries Snapshot Day, November 2010, or collected via the 2009 Public Library Annual Report for fiscal years completed December 31, 2009.

All quotes used throughout this booklet were gathered from Maine citizens at libraries on Snapshot Day in November 2010. Most photos were taken at Maine libraries on Snapshot Day.

Digital-Age Literacy

31 School Libraries:

- » Welcomed 5,029 students
- » Answered 458 questions
- » Instructed 1,671 students
- » Trained 400 in computer use
- » Offered 37 programs to 724 people
- » Loaned 2,421 items



**School libraries play an important role
in advancing our competitiveness in the
global economy.**



Inspiring students to be lifelong learners, readers, and engaged citizens



Academic libraries: Critical to success in higher education and lifelong learning



15 Academic Libraries:

- » Welcomed 13,844 students
- » Provided computer access to 6,844 people
- » Loaned 1,878 items
- » Instructed 135 students
- » Answered 536 questions
- » Trained 148 in computer use

"The library is important to me because it gives me a quiet place to study, resources for research, access to the Internet, and interlibrary loan."

Getting Mainers Back to Work



"Now that I'm laid off, I need a computer to find employment, which makes the library a life saver."

"Effective job searching requires Internet access, and because we have a dial-up connection at home, nearly every day I come to the library with my laptop.

I take advantage of the helpful print resources and the fast WiFi connection, which makes the hunting for and responding to job postings efficient."



Maine State Library Awarded \$1.3 million Broadband Technology Opportunity Grant (BTOP)

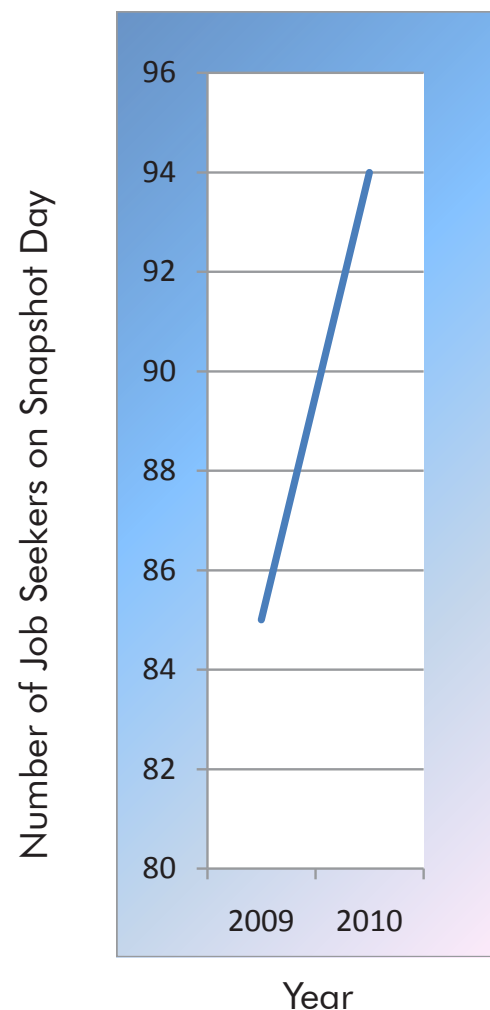
Many Maine residents lack available or affordable high-speed Internet access and the assistance to use the increasing number of services and employment opportunities available online. The availability of public access computers in libraries is critical in Maine's current environment.

With the BTOP grant the **Maine Public Library Information Commons Project** will:

- Establish or enhance public computer centers, offering broadband access and training in 107 public libraries in Maine.
- Establish 11 additional video conferencing regional hubs.
- Partner libraries with the state's Department of Labor to provide support for job seekers through training and access to job search databases, statistical resources and job forecasts provided by the Center for Workforce Research and Information.



Workforce Assistance in Libraries



Source: Snapshot Day 2010



Free Computer Access



"I come to the library at least a couple times a week. The free access to the Internet is invaluable"

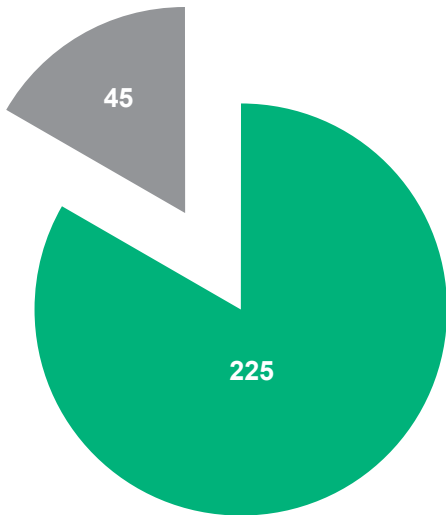
"I've used the library resources to look for work, buy a car, sell a car, find an apartment, research candidates & issues before the election, keep in touch with family, & so much more."



Nationally, 77 million people use library computers and 30 million of those look for jobs.

Source: WebJunction - Workforce Resources
<http://www.webjunction.org/workforce-resources/>

Library Computer Use Increases with WiFi Availability



■ Libraries with WiFi ■ Libraries without WiFi

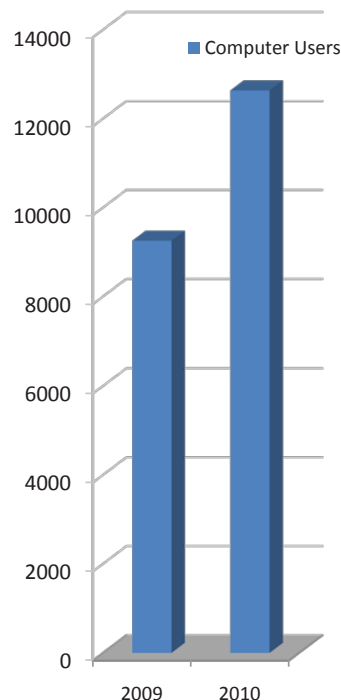
Source: 2009 Public Library Annual Report



"I travel in my job and often find myself looking for a place to quietly work on my reports. Libraries have offered me the exact spot to do this."



"I work a split shift; between shifts I come to the library to log into my online classes and complete assignments."



Source: Snapshot Day 2010

Health Information, Education and Research

5 Health Science Libraries:

- » Welcomed 364 people
- » Trained 226 in online research
- » Provided computer access to 242 people
- » Answered 59 questions
- » Loaned 57 items
- » Helped 11 with job searches



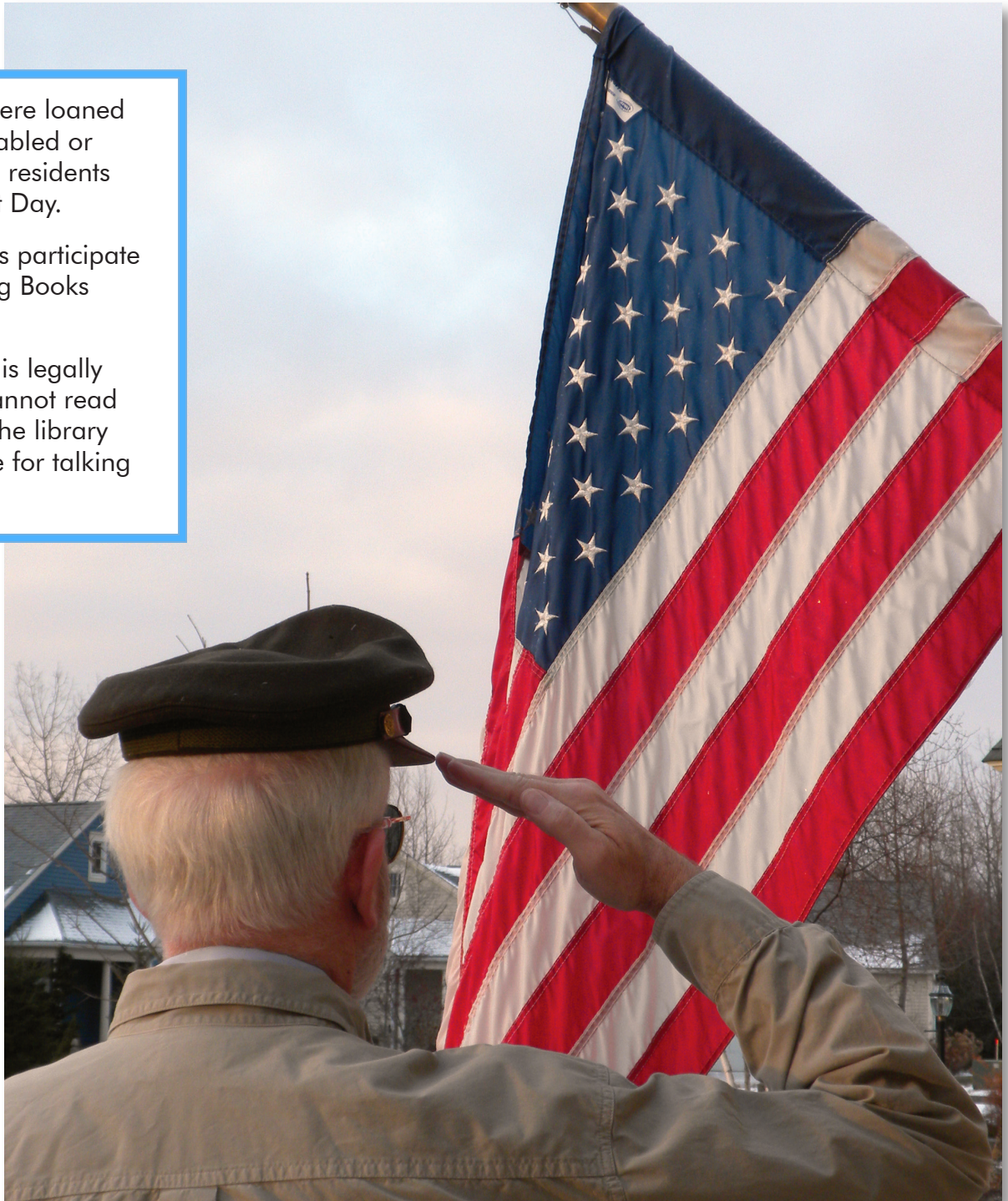
"Easy access to health care research and information. I printed an article to share with breast cancer survivors."

Serving Veterans and Disabled/Blind Residents

749 items were loaned to blind, disabled or underserved residents on Snapshot Day.

196 veterans participate in the Talking Books program.

"My mother is legally blind and cannot read anymore. The library is her lifeline for talking books."



In a December 2009 survey of Talking Books users, 99.4% answered that they strongly agree or agree that using Talking Books Plus services (Talking Books, Descriptive Video, and/or Large Print) improves the quality of their lives.

Mind, Heart & Soul of Towns

"A man who recently lost his mom to cancer and his leg to a lengthy illness called the library one afternoon and was in despair. The staff sought ways to get him assistance to allow him to stay in his home.

He now has access to a cleaning company that lowered its price to help him once a week; he started an email account on the library's public access computers and has joined a local grief support group. This is a perfect example of how a small town library is part of the community."

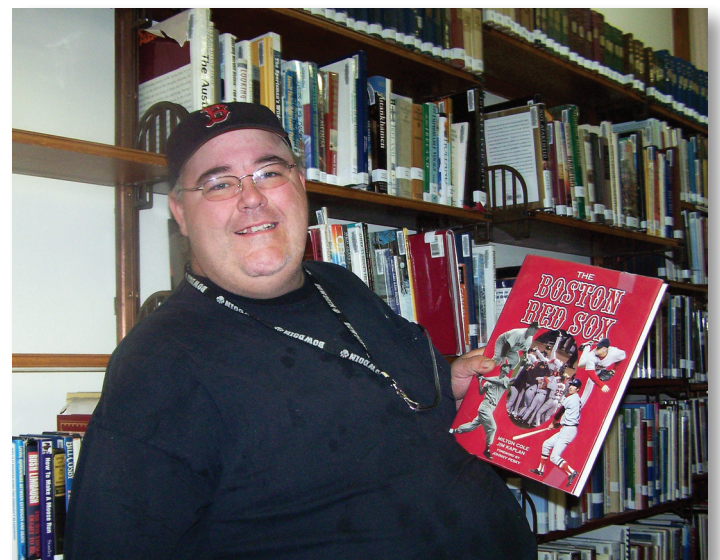
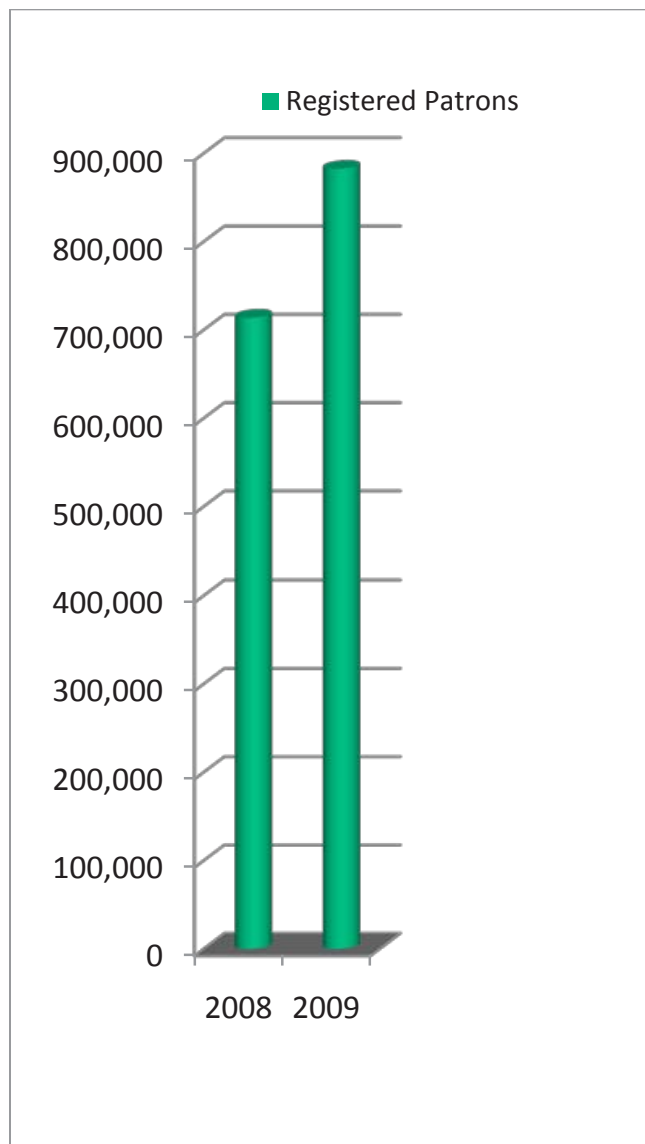
- Farmington Public Library



community

97 Public Libraries:

- » Welcomed 21,701
- » Loaned 28,678 items
- » Provided internet access to 4,132 people
- » Offered 149 programs - 2,273 attended
- » Answered 2,052 questions
- » Trained 226 to use computers
- » Instructed 135 people
- » Helped 180 people with school assignments



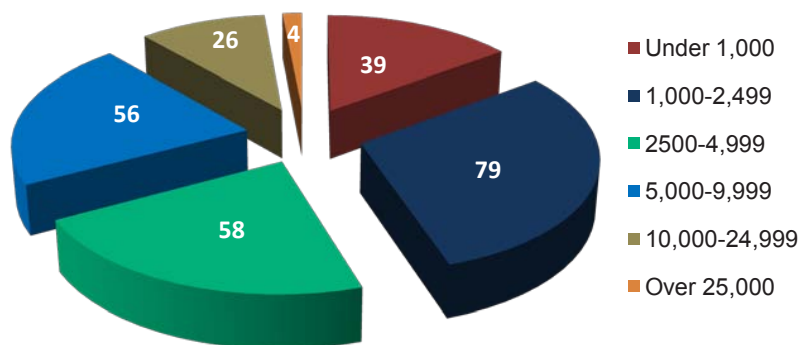
Source: 2008 & 2009 Public Library Annual Report

Libraries Connect Communities



"I am able to use the library's resources to build my abilities without the immediate cost of those resources. It is one of the few ways I get to use my tax dollars personally."

67% of Maine Libraries Serve Towns with Populations Less than 5,000



Source: 2009 Public Library Annual Report

value

Maine residents checked out more than 9 million items from public libraries during 2009. If residents had personally purchased these books, videos, CDs, etc...

The cost would have exceeded \$133 million!

people

Maine Public Libraries employ Maine citizens.

Hannaford:
7,501- 8,000

Maine Medical:
5,501- 6,000

L.L.Bean:
4,001- 4,500

Home Depot:
1,001-1,500

**Maine Public Libraries:
1,212**

Central Maine Power:
1,001-1,500

kids

In Maine last year, libraries educated and entertained over 374,879 families with children's programming.

Library programs are free of charge!

If attendees were charged a commercial admission fee of \$6 per child, they would have paid \$2,249,274.



Source:

Maine Department of Labor, Center for Workforce Research and Information

Library Value Use Calculator
www.maine.gov/msl/services/calculator.htm



- Libraries are good investments.
- Maine's libraries return a value of \$6.29 for every \$1 that Maine's communities invest in them.*
- Libraries are economical, providing materials that can be used many times by many people.
- Libraries offer effective help in tough times with high speed internet connections, resources and helpful professionals.
- Libraries are places of social connection.
- Libraries stretch budgets by offering programs that educate and entertain all ages.

Support for Maine libraries is support for Maine's future

* Data from the 2009 Public Library Annual Report. Return on Investment was obtained by calculating the value of services offered using the Library Use Value Calculator on the state library's website and then dividing that number by the total reported municipal allocations.

